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(54) **SYNTHETIC SILICA GLASS OPTICAL BODY FOR
ULTRAVIOLET LASER AND PRODUCTION
THEREFOR**

(57) Abstract

PURPOSE: To enhance homogenization and high purity and resistance to laser by performing stria removing treatment and internal strain removing treatment and incorporating OH group and Cl and constituting fluctuating distribution of the specified refractive index and incorporating H₂ molecules.

CONSTITUTION: A heated glass gob is obtained by regulating the concn. distributions of OH group and Cl of a high purity synthetic Si glass gob wherein a stria is free and thereafter heating the Si glass gob at 1000-1200°C. Then removing treatment of internal strain is performed by slowly cooling this glass gob.

Further, the glass gob is obtained by performing such constitution that both refractive index fluctuating distribution based on the virtual temp. distribution formed to the direction of a central region from the circumferential edge region of the glass gob and the refractive index fluctuating distribution based on the concn. distributions of OH group and Cl are mutually canceled. Then this glass gob is treated at 200-1000°C in the gaseous H₂ atmosphere at normal pressure or pressurization. A synthetic silica glass optical body is produced which incorporates H₂ molecule not less than about 5×10^{18} (molecule/cm³) for inhibiting deterioration of transmittance of light due to irradiation of ultraviolet laser such as KrF excimer laser and has ≈ 50 ppm concn. of OH group.

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